BENGALURU, TUESDAY, JULY 29, 2025 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 27 | Min 19 | Humidity 68% Cloudy and windy Sensex 80,891 | Nifty 24,680 | Gold 97,570 | Silver 1,13,171 | Dollar 86.72 | Euro 101.62 | GBP 116.05

CLASS CONTINUES...

Q: What is too long, repetitive and mentally exhausting?
A: SSLC Social Science Curriculum

PAGE 2

UNLUCKY STRIKES

Despite improved alerts, lightning strikes claimed 80 lives in 2024; Belagavi, Kalaburagi among worst-hit districts

PAGE 6

Cybercrime helpline 1930 is receiving an average of 4,476 calls a day as people continue to lose big amounts to various traps; victims in state lost over Rs 3,000 crore in 1.5 years — investment fraud is most prevalent in city

WEB OF LIES

Instant loan applications, impersonation scams remain common tactics

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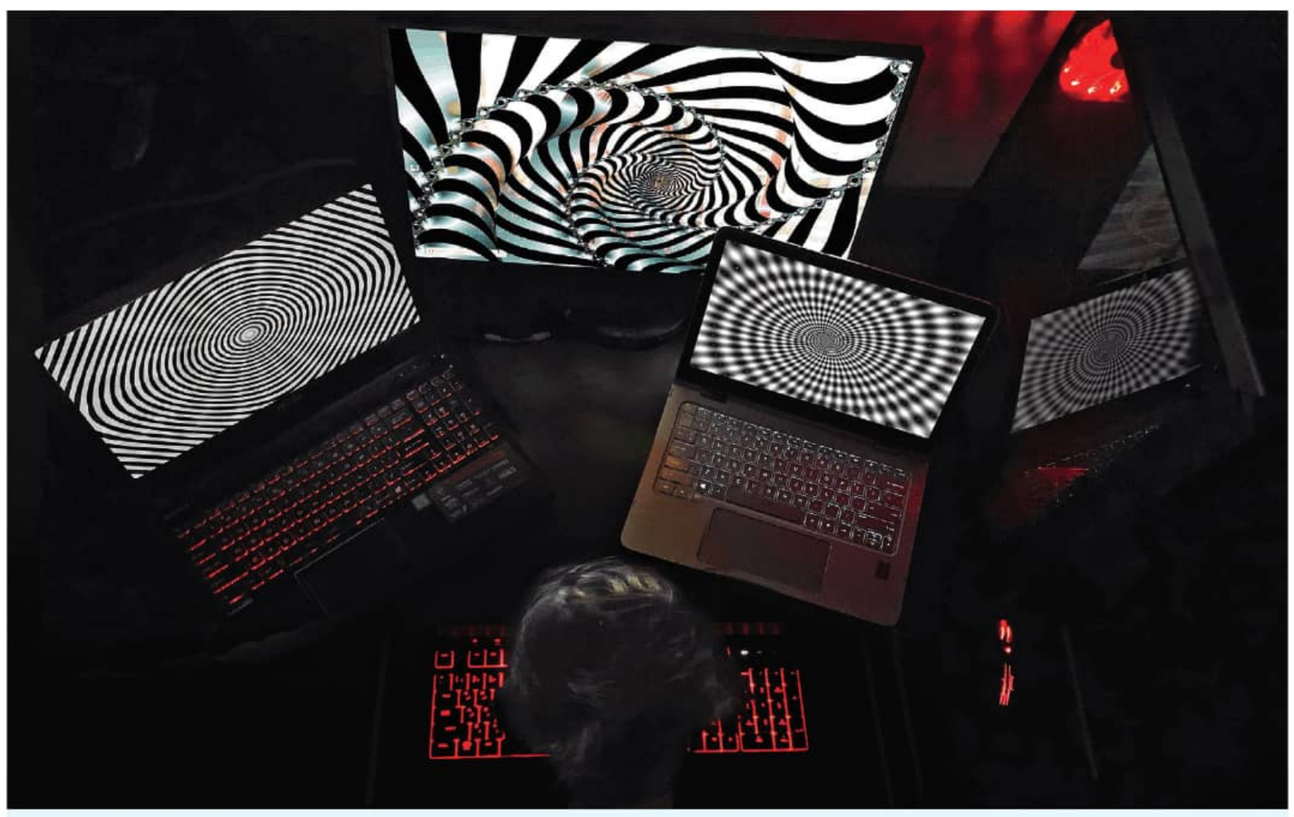
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Karnataka has witnessed a 14.36% rise in cybercrime in the first five months of this year with victims reporting financial frauds amounting to over ₹3,334 crore in just the last 18 months. According to statistics from the Home Department, the state's dedicated cybercrime helpline, 1930, received a staggering 6,71,365 calls in just five months, averaging around 4,476 calls a day, 186 calls every hour, or about 93 calls every 30 minutes.

The cybercrime helpline, started in December 2021, received only 1,30,333 calls in 2022, which later increased to 4 lakh, and by 2024 it had surged to 10,79,458 calls, which can be translated as the cybercrime helpline was handling an average of 2,957 calls a day -- that's 123 every one hour, or about 61 calls every 30 minutes. Around 9.43% of these cases involved cybercrime losses, with an average of ₹2,396 total amount lost, though timely intervention helped block an additional ₹226 per case.

Officials say Bengaluru accounts

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »



"Cybercriminals create accounts and groups using keywords such as 'bank accounts', 'corporate accounts', 'account business', 'renting account' and 'gaming funds' to connect with vulnerable individuals and procure mule accounts

— Official

Don't tinker with buffer zone: Experts

Bill that amends size of buffer zones based on lake's size is very bad idea, warn ecologists

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The State Cabinet's approval of the Karnataka Tank Conservation and Development Authority's (Amendment) Bill, 2025, has left ecologists, limnologists, and lake activists in a state of concern.

The Bill has amended the size of buffer zones around lakes in the city. As per the amendment, the buffer zone will now be down to 3 metres from the boundary of a lake measuring up to one acre. It will be 6 metres for lakes between one and 10 acres in size, 12 metres for lakes between 10 and 25 acres, 24 metres for lakes between 25 and 100 acres, and 30 metres for lakes above 100 acres in size.

This implies the 30-metre uniform buffer zone rule around every lake will be replaced with the new rule, redefining the size of buffer zones based on size of the lakes.

Experts say the Bill is unrealistic and is a classic example of an amendment made sitting in ivory towers.

Professor TV Ramachandra, Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science (IISc), questioned the methodology used to arrive at buffer zone limits for

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Tech trek

Techstination, the popular Tech IP of Nexus Select Malls, is back with its third edition, bringing a wide range of gadgets and appliances from top electronics brands which are perfect for anyone planning to upgrade their personal or home tech. **Where: Nexus Shantiniketan Mall, Nexus Whitefield Mall, Nexus Vega City Mall; When: Until August 17, 11 am to 9 pm**

02 Literary realm

Urban Solace Café is hosting Robina, a poet and an educator, for this 'Tuesdays with the Bard @ Urban Solace' edition. **Where: Urban Solace Café, Ulsoor; When: July 29, 7.30 pm**

03 Cinemagic

NGMA Bengaluru, in collaboration with Ananya Drishya, a city-based artists' collective led by SG Vasudev, is organising a video screening of nine artists shot during the COVID pandemic lockdown, sharing their work progress and methodology. **Where: National Gallery of Modern Art, Palace Road; When: August 1, 5.30 pm**

04 Musical evening

Vineeth Srinivasan will be performing his most loved hits live with his band, as part of 'Vineeth Sreenivasan Reloaded 2.0 Tour', promising a night of rhythm, and musical magic. **Where: Phoenix Marketcity, Whitefield; When: August 23, 6 pm**

05 Painted thoughts

Museum of Art & Photography (MAP) is presenting 'Shape of a Thought: Letters from Ram Kumar', navigating the artist's nuanced engagement with abstraction by inviting the viewer not to decipher, but to dwell on a constellation of thoughts, feelings, and memories. **Where: Museum of Art and Photography, Ashok Nagar; When: July 26 onwards**

SSLC Social Science syllabus draws flak

Pressure to memorise large volumes of Social Science content is leading to increased stress amongst students, say educators, demanding expert committee to review and reduce syllabus

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The Secondary School Leaving Certificate (SSLC) Social Science curriculum in Karnataka is drawing strong criticism from educators and students alike, who claim the syllabus is excessively long, repetitive, and mentally exhausting for 10th-grade students. Despite repeated appeals to reduce the burden over the last two years, the government has yet to respond, say teachers' associations.

Lengthy curriculum

Teachers alleged that the current Social Science syllabus comprises a staggering 33 chapters, spread across two parts—138 pages in Part 1 and 150 pages in Part 2, totalling 288 pages. Teachers point out that completing even a single chapter requires at least three to five classroom sessions, making it nearly impossible to cover the full syllabus by December-end, the deadline imposed by the academic calendar. "Social Science has become more demanding than even subjects like Maths and English," said Ramesh Narayanappa, a 10th-grade student, adding that there is not enough time to study 33 chapters thoroughly before exams.

Too many tests, too little learning

Adding to the pressure is the requirement of conducting a formative assessment after every chapter, leading to 33 tests for Social Science alone. When combined with similar assessments in other subjects, students are being pushed through over 360 tests per year, even though the number of actual school working days is just 224. "How can teachers conduct a test almost every day and still manage to complete the syllabus?" asked Rupesh Kumar, a Social Science teacher. He said that this becomes overwhelming for both students and educators. "The testing system has turned into a punishment," he said.

Repetition and redundancy

Teachers argue that the current syllabus unnecessarily repeats topics already covered in earlier classes. Lessons on climate, mineral resources, and soil types that were part of Class 8 and 9 syllabi are being revisited in Class 10, with the only difference being a shift from state-level to national-level examples. "There's no point in making children study the same topics repeatedly," said Chidananda Patil, State Coordinator of the Karnataka Social Science Teachers' Forum. "The syllabus should focus on age-appropriate, fresh content that adds to their knowledge, not just volume," said Patil.

Mental health concerns

Teachers also cite a report by National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), which highlights how the academic overload is impacting students' mental well-being. The constant pressure to memorise large volumes of content is reportedly leading to increased stress and anxiety amongst students.

> **"We are not against academic rigour, but we want quality education that children can absorb and benefit from—not a race to complete pages**
> – Chidananda Patil, State Coordinator, Karnataka Social Science Teachers' Forum

Need for government intervention

Despite multiple memorandums submitted to the Textbook Committee and Department of State Educational Research and Training (DSERT) over the past two years, educators say the lack of response from authorities is disheartening. They demand that, like Science and Mathematics, which were reduced by 20 per cent for the academic year 2024–25, Social Science too should be rationalised. "We are not against academic rigour, but we want quality education that children can absorb and benefit from—not a race to complete pages," said Patil.

Teachers are now urging the state government to form an expert committee to review and reduce the syllabus, making it manageable and meaningful. As the new academic year progresses, the call for change is growing louder, with students and teachers united in their demand for relief.

No sanitary pads in schools yet

Despite two months passing since the academic year began, sanitary pads under the government's Shuchi scheme have yet to reach schools and colleges. Launched in 2013–14, the scheme aims to provide free sanitary pads to girls aged 14–18 in government and aided institutions to promote menstrual hygiene and support physical and mental well-being. While nearly 19 lakh girls received pads last year, no distribution has happened this time, leaving many girls distressed—especially those travelling long distances for education. Health Department officials confirmed a lack of funding and clarity, though tenders have been floated and distribution is expected by August or September. Students say the delay is causing emotional strain, and demand immediate access to hygienic and good-quality napkins in their institutions. **— BMB**

3.75 lakh owners to receive notices

In a decisive move to enhance revenue collection, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is set to issue notices to over 3.75 lakh property owners who have defaulted on paying property tax. BBMP Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao directed officials to initiate immediate action to recover pending dues. The directive came during a high-level review meeting held at the BBMP headquarters on Monday, where the Commissioner stressed the importance of strengthening the civic body's finances through efficient property tax collection. According to officials, around Rs 700 to Rs 800 crore in unpaid property taxes are pending from approximately 3.75 lakh property owners within BBMP limits. Notices will be issued via SMS and email to defaulters. The Commissioner clarified that those who have already paid need not worry, but those with pending dues must ensure that they make payments without delay. He instructed officials to ensure all necessary steps are taken to facilitate timely tax collection. **— BMB**

Landslide halts B'luru–M'luru traffic

Traffic between Bengaluru and Mangaluru came to a standstill late Sunday night following a massive landslide on National Highway-75 near Mannagudda in Kadaba taluk. The landslide deposited a substantial amount of mud and debris on the highway, rendering it completely impassable and severely disrupting vehicular movement between the two cities. In response, authorities swiftly swung into action, deploying earthmoving equipment to clear the area and diverting traffic via alternate routes. Vehicles were rerouted through alternate state highways and major district roads. **— BMB**

69 dengue cases in a week

The city is witnessing a worrying spike in dengue cases, with 69 new infections reported in the last one week, taking the total tally to 1,685 cases since January 2025. July alone accounted for 442 cases, making it the worst-hit month this year. In response, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao has instructed health officials to intensify mosquito control measures, including larvicide spraying, fogging, and eliminating breeding spots across vulnerable zones. To curb the spread, BBMP is deploying volunteers for door-to-door awareness drives and urging installation of ovitraps in homes located in high-risk areas. Continuous fogging, public engagement through IEC campaigns, and coordination with Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) are being prioritised. Officials have been asked to act swiftly and ensure no delay in preventive efforts as the monsoon continues to create ideal conditions for mosquito breeding. **— BMB**

Mystery blaze guts Halasuru market shop, vehicles

Shock and confusion grip Halasuru after lone shop and 20 vehicles are torched. Police begin probe; locals demand swift justice and accountability

A vegetable shop and several two-wheelers were gutted in the blaze on Sunday night

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Mahalingam B has been earning his livelihood by selling vegetables at Halasuru Market for over three decades without any trouble. On Sunday night, he locked his shop and went home, expecting to reopen it the next morning. However, to his shock, he discovered on Monday that his vegetable shop had been completely gutted by fire, allegedly set by unknown miscreants. The motive behind the act remains unclear.

"I have been selling vegetables here for over three decades. Now, my children manage the shop. We have no enemies, so I don't know why anyone would set it on fire early Monday. It's heartbreaking to see a pregnant cat die in the blaze. Everything is gone. The furniture is completely burnt, and I have no idea how we'll reopen the shop," said Mahalingam, struggling to come to terms with the loss.

According to him, a few miscreants broke the lock of the shop three months ago and an attempt was made to set the shop afire a year ago. Mahalingam's was the only shop targeted and burnt at Halasuru Vegetable Market. Around 10 bikes, scooters, and another 10 bicycles were also set on fire just a few meters away on B.No. 4 Street. The vehicles belonged to lower-middle- and middle-class families, most of whom cannot afford replacements. "I noticed the fire around 3.30 am. My scooter was completely burnt. I'm a vendor selling toys and used it to drop my daughter at school. Now, I have to make alternative arrangements. I'm heading to Halasuru Police Station to lodge a complaint and hope to get the insurance money," said Amith Kumar K, a resident of B.No. 4 Street. The incident has left residents worried about safety, especially with no clear motive behind the targeted arson attacks in the early hours.

Expressing shock, Shekhar V, a resident, said his son's bike was completely burnt. "We bought it for 68,000 three years ago. He used it to commute to work. Now, we are left with no option but to buy a new one," he said.

Demanding strict action against those responsible for burning the vegetable shop, bikes, and bicycles, BR Chandran, a social activist from Halasuru, said he has full faith in the police. "Police must investigate the case thoroughly," he said. Meanwhile, Halasuru Sub-Division Assistant Commissioner of Police Rangappa visited the spot. "We are investigating the case. A few miscreants have already been apprehended," the ACP said.

Stampede: Govt revokes suspension of 4 cops

The Karnataka government has revoked the suspension of four police officers who were taken off duty following the June 4 stampede near Chinnaswamy Stadium. The officers reinstated include senior IPS officers B Dayananda (ADGP) and Shekar H Tekkannavar (SP), along with KSP officers C Balakrishna (DySP) and A K Girish (Inspector). Their suspensions were initially ordered pending disciplinary action following the incident, which prompted inquiries by both a magisterial panel led by Bengaluru Urban Deputy Commissioner Jagadish G and a judicial commission headed by retired Justice John Michael Cunha. The panels submitted their reports to the government on July 10 and 11. The officers later submitted representations seeking revocation of suspension. After examining the reports and appeals, the government lifted the suspensions and reinstated them to service. However, the officers will still face disciplinary proceedings under service rules. The government said the decision was taken "in view of the facts and circumstances" of the case. —BMB

Property deals now safer

The Registration (Karnataka Amendment) Act, 2025 has officially come into effect after receiving the President's assent on July 22, 2025, and being published in the Karnataka Gazette Extraordinary as Karnataka Act No. 42 of 2025 on Monday. The Act amends key provisions of the Registration Act, 1908 (Central Act 16 of 1908) to bring clarity and make property registration transparent.

A major change is that now all PoA documents used to transfer property must be registered. Another rule under Section 33 is that anyone submitting a PoA must prove that the person who gave them the power of attorney is still alive. —BMB

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Police struggle to put brakes on 1-way violators

As Miller's Road residents frustrated with delay in hearing their pleas, police say manpower shortage not letting them deploy personnel on stretch through the day

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After Miller's Road residents demanded action to rein in two-wheeler and auto drivers who violate one-way rules, police officials said that some violators are residents themselves and cite manpower shortage as the reason for not deploying officers regularly to monitor the stretch and enforce compliance.

Residents along Miller's Road had raised the issue of rampant traffic violations at the busy Nandidurga Road–Miller's Road junction, opposite Khadria Masjid, extending to the Benson Road ramp.

The ramp, originally meant for one-way upward traffic, is now routinely used by two-wheelers and auto-rickshaws coming down against the flow, putting pedestrians at risk.

Routine violations, daily risks

Residents say that traffic violations here have become a daily affair, with vehicles driving the wrong way to save a few minutes, creating a dangerous situation for pedestrians, schoolchildren, and senior citizens. A local resident told BM, "Despite highlighting the problem in the media, there seems to be no difference on the ground." He recalled that a few years ago, traffic police were stationed at the bottom of the ramp to catch violators.

Bangalore Mirror
Forget one-way rule, reckless motorists want it their own way
Frustrated by inaction, Miller's Road residents push for surveillance and fines to stop reckless two-wheeler and auto drivers flouting one-way rules

Bangalore Mirror has highlighted on the issue on July 26

One-way ignored: RT Nagar traffic police say a signboard is installed, but even local residents are among those violating the rule

Earlier, a police official was also posted at the top of the ramp to stop those breaking the one-way rule on the stretch between Benson Road, Benson Cross Road, and Harris Road. "There was even talk of setting up a police chowki at the top of the ramp, but nothing materialised," the resident added.

Signboard in place, talks on

Police officials from RT Nagar Traffic Police Station said a one-way signboard is already in place, but admitted that even some residents violate the rule. "Near Harris Road, traffic is normal, but in residential areas, autos occasionally use the stretch. We will verify the situation. Tree branches near the signboard need trimming, and the concerned authorities have been informed—it should be done in two days. The downward stretch falls between Frazer Town and Miller's Road, which sometimes causes coordination issues. Since no cameras are installed, enforcement has to be manual," said an official.

The officials have spoken to residents and are in discussions. "We're also facing congestion near Frazer Town and Wheeler Road, which are indeed close by. Due to staff shortages, regular monitoring has been difficult, but we're committed to resolving the issue. We will deploy a home guard near the signboard from one station and another officer at the bottom of the ramp. We are bound to do our duty," the official added.

> "Every day, vehicles drive the wrong way down the ramp just to save a few minutes, putting everyone—especially school children and senior citizens—at risk
> – A Resident

Meanwhile residents of the area are worried about daily violations. "Violations happen throughout the day, turning the junction into a free-for-all. A single CCTV camera at the top of the ramp could change this. If fines are issued, people will think twice. We urge BBMP and traffic police to act before a serious accident forces action," said a resident.

Residents believe that consistent enforcement, even with one or two officers, would deter violators.

Funds meant for SC/ST used for shoe, socks

In a delayed disclosure, it has emerged that funds from the Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan (SCSP) and Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) were used to finance Karnataka's free shoes and socks distribution scheme for government school students. Of the ₹410 crore allocated under the Vidya Vikas scheme for 2025–26, ₹102 crore came from SCSP and ₹41 crore from TSP. The scheme covers around 40.68 lakh students from Classes 1 to 10. The remaining funds were transferred directly to School Development and Monitoring Committee (SDMC) accounts based on enrolment figures. When questioned, education department officials clarified that the decision to use SCSP/TSP funds was based on the high enrolment of SC/ST students in government schools and was meant to proportionately benefit these communities under the welfare scheme as instructed by the state government. — BMB

Housing board project to help urban poor

In a bid to make homeownership accessible for the poor and middle-income groups in Bengaluru, the Karnataka Housing Board (KHB) is set to launch a new integrated housing project at BM Kaval in Kengeri Hobli. A preliminary notification has been issued to acquire 315 acres, with the project planned in three phases. Based on a 50:50 partnership model between KHB and landowners, the scheme aims to construct flats for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS), Lower Income Groups (LIG), and Middle-Income Groups (MIG). Landowners will receive half of the developed plots or flats as compensation, while the remaining units will be allotted by KHB.

Alongside similar initiatives in Surya Nagar (Anekal Taluk) and Yelahanka, where around 4,000–5,000 flats are proposed, KHB is also planning to build modern duplex homes under Surya Nagar Phase 4. The BM Kaval layout will be developed without changing existing ownership until finalisation, and landowners have been instructed not to sell or alter land use. The government has already identified land across three blocks, including 41 acres of government land, and approximately 90% of private landowners have reportedly given their consent to the proposed housing development plan. — BMB

A-Khata portal to be launched in 15 days

To streamline property documentation and boost transparency, BBMP will launch an online A-Khata application system within 15 days. Citizens can use the digital platform to convert B-Khata to A-Khata or apply for a new A-Khata if they lack one. BBMP has urged the public not to visit its offices or engage middlemen, warning against giving or accepting bribes. Once the portal is operational, all applications must be submitted exclusively online. BBMP Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao said the civic body has already received over 50,000 new A-Khata applications. He instructed officials to prioritise processing these to widen the property tax base, improve revenue collection, and deliver faster, more efficient services to Bengaluru's citizens through a transparent and accountable system. — BMB

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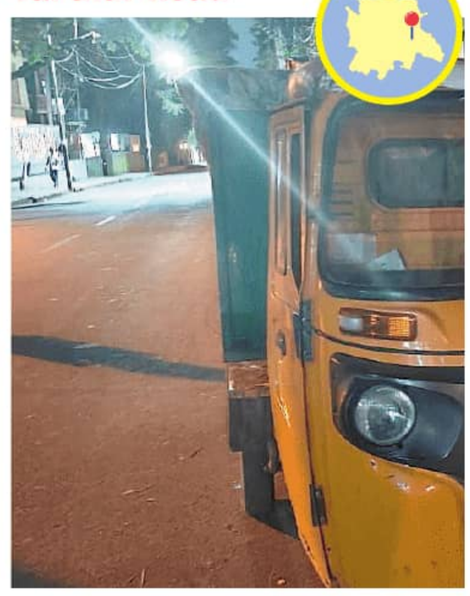
Signal jumper

Hebbal

A vehicle near Hebbal flyover is repeatedly flouting traffic signals, risking public safety. Commuters urge authorities to step in and take immediate action.

No parking please

Varthur Road


A newly created waste vehicle parking zone opposite a shop on Varthur Road is triggering daily traffic jams. Commuters demand swift removal to ease congestion.

Transit neglect

Vijayanagar

Commuters near BGS Ground in Vijayanagar struggle daily due to the lack of a bus shelter, leaving them exposed to the elements. Authorities are urged to act swiftly.

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Member of BOG Sharnbasva University

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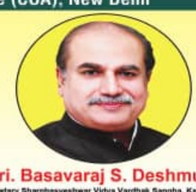

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SAMIKSHA
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HARSHA
COGNIZANT
PACKEGE: 4.9 LPA
DEPT AIML

KARUNYA AHANSIKA
EXCELR
PACKAGE : 2.3 LPA
DEPT AIML

SIMRAN TABASSUM
CAPGEMINI
PACKEGE: 4.25 LPA
DEPT AIML

M DIVYA LALITHA
EXCELR
PACKAGE : 2.3 LPA
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ANUSHKA
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PACKAGE : 2.3 LPA
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SNEHA GOULE
TAP ACADEMY
PACKAGE : 2.3 LPA
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SEJAL PARIKA
TAP ACADEMY
PACKAGE : 2.3 LPA
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SPOORTI
VSTAND4USOLUTIONS
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SHRADDHA
VSTAND4USOLUTIONS
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SYEDA BENAZIR KHAN
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NIDA MUSKAN BANGI
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ARPITA A. M
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SANGNYA AKAMANCHI
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VAISHNAVI S. KALE
EXCELR
PACKAGE : 2.3 LPA
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VAISHNAVI CHAVAN
EXCELR
PACKAGE : 2.3 LPA
DEPT CSE

BHAGYASHREE B. P
EXCELR
PACKAGE : 2.3 LPA
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BHAGYASHREE B. G
TAP ACADEMY
PACKAGE : 2.3 LPA
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VARSHA MATH
TAP ACADEMY
PACKAGE : 2.3 LPA
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REVATI RATHOD
PENTAGON SPACE
PACKAGE : 2.3 LPA
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LAKSHMI PATIL
PENTAGON SPACE
PACKAGE : 2.3 LPA
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SHEETAL
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BHOOMIKA YELASANGI
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USHA RATHOD
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Lightning strikes kill 1,026 in K'taka since 2011, report finds

Despite improved alerts, lightning strikes claimed 80 lives in 2024; Belagavi, Kalaburagi among worst-hit districts over 14 years, highlighting urgent need for awareness

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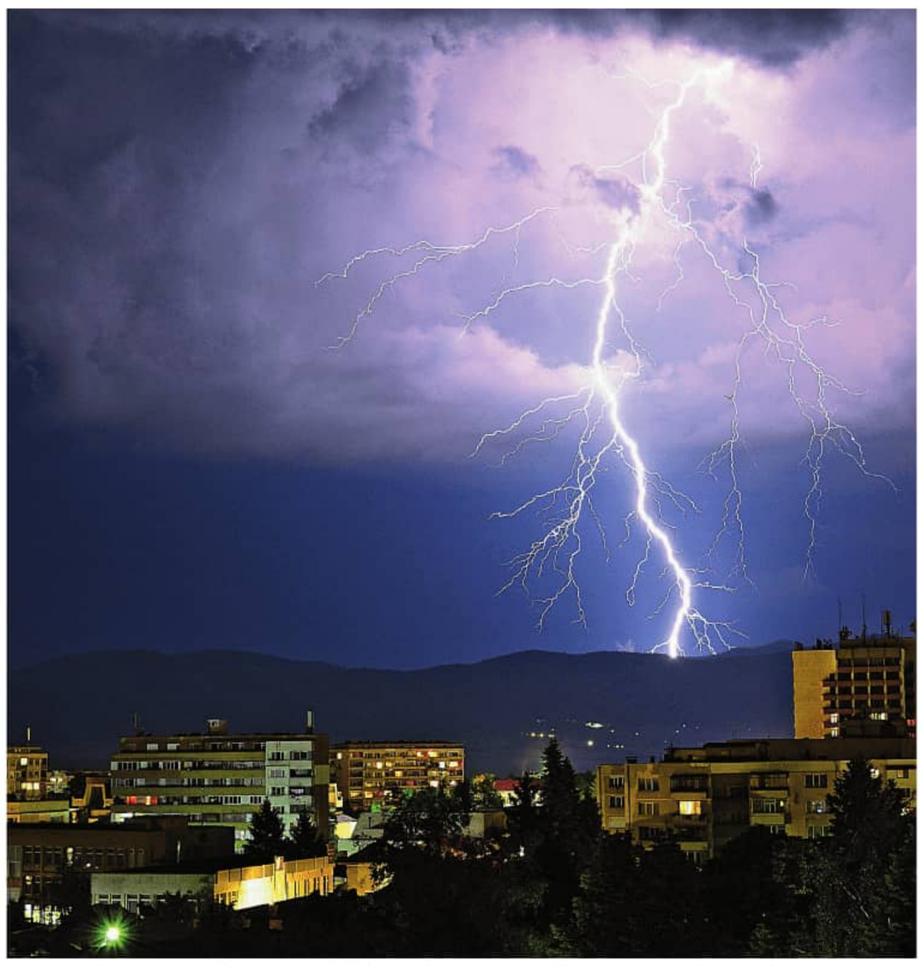
According to the Karnataka State Thunderstorm and Lightning Action Plan 2025–26, prepared by the Karnataka State Disaster Management Authority (KSNDMC), the state recorded 1,026 deaths in the 14-year period. While Bengaluru accounted for just nine fatalities, the highest number of deaths was reported from Belagavi (86), followed by Kalaburagi (80), Vijayapura (79), Bidar (75) and Hassan (56). In 2024 alone, 80 lightning-related deaths were reported — a rise from 66 the previous year. The state also witnessed 1.32 lakh lightning events during the year. Among districts, Belagavi recorded the most cloud-to-ground lightning incidents at 12,157, followed by Kalaburagi (11,997), Vijayapura (9,207), Dakshina Kannada (8,763), and Uttara Kannada (8,428).

Interestingly, while fatalities increased in 2024, the total number of lightning events was lower than in the previous two years. Officials attribute this rise in deaths to localised thunderstorms and inadequate awareness in high-risk areas.

To tackle lightning-related hazards, the KSNDMC has set up 11 Lightning Detection Sensor Stations across Karnataka. These stations generate location-specific alerts at the gram panchayat level, which are disseminated to both government departments and the general public.

Over the past four years, the Authority has issued a staggering number of alerts — 4.8 crore in 2021, 3.5 crore in 2022, 2.01 crore in 2023, and 2.14 crore in 2024. The alerts are part of a wider strategy to enhance early warning systems and reduce human casualties.



KSNDMC sensors track lightning strikes, sending crore-level alerts across Karnataka for timely public safety response and disaster risk reduction

In a significant development, the Authority now plans to expand Doppler Weather Radar (DWR) coverage to all districts and blocks by 2025–26. These radar systems play a key role in nowcasting thunderstorms and related extreme weather events. Initially, 403 towns and cities were brought under DWR-based nowcasting. By 2020, this coverage has been extended to all districts, and the upcoming phase aims to reach all blocks.

> **"District administration customises the action plan, ensuring effective implementation and awareness campaigns for locals regarding lightning safety** – Official

An official involved with the action plan said it has been shared with district collectors across the state. "The responsibility of implementation lies with the district administration. They must tailor the plan to suit local conditions and ensure the public is informed about lightning safety protocols," the official added. Local authorities have also been instructed to conduct awareness drives and ensure timely dissemination of lightning warnings at the community level.

Healthcare drives into remote areas

To bridge the healthcare gap in remote and transport-deficient regions, the Karnataka government has approved 52 Mobile Health Units (MHUs) under the Health and Family Welfare Department, at a total cost of ₹15.97 crore. These MHUs will cater to 750 identified hard-to-reach habitations, including 110 villages located over 10 km away from the nearest primary health centre. Each unit will visit the assigned areas at least once a month, covering 2–3 villages daily and offering 12 basic health services. MHUs will be of two types: one staffed with doctors and nurses, and the other with health workers. Each vehicle will cost ₹2.75–2.85 lakh, with monthly operational costs set at ₹1.95 lakh and ₹1.20 lakh, respectively. Salaries for staff—including ₹15,000 for doctors and ₹25,000 for nurses—along with lab expenses, vehicle and miscellaneous costs are included. Drivers, technicians, and assistants will be recruited on contract through the District Health and Family Welfare Society. Mysuru district has requested five MHUs for forest-side villages. **— BMB**

Thanisandra bags ₹270-cr Vande Bharat yard

Indian Railways is set to build a state-of-the-art Vande Bharat sleeper coach depot-cum-workshop near Thanisandra railway station in Bengaluru, at an estimated cost of ₹270 crore. Approved by the Railway Board, the facility will be developed by the South Western Railway's Bengaluru Division and is slated for completion by early 2026. The upcoming depot will cater to maintenance and inspection of the Vande Bharat sleeper trains, 10 of which—each with 16 coaches—are being jointly manufactured by the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) and BEML in Bengaluru. With six Vande Bharat chair car services already operating from the city, the new facility will pave the way for increased night-service variants.

In parallel, Indian Railways is planning two new terminals—one near Devanahalli between Bullahalli and Hosuru villages, and another in Nelamangala—after shelving earlier Whitefield plans due to land shortages. Meanwhile, there is rising public demand to reopen the long-shut Thanisandra station, located near the busy Manyata Tech Park. Thanisandra is also set to be a key stop on the under-construction Bengaluru Suburban Rail's Corridor-4. **— BMB**

BM Trippin' Tales

New Hampi boat launch to connect tourists with Anegundi faster

A 40-seater vessel from Maharashtra promises faster, more comfortable river crossings, boosting tourism and easing local travel across Tungabhadra

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In a boost to tourism in the Hampi region, a large boat (launch) service will soon be introduced to ferry visitors from Hampi across the Tungabhadra River to Anegundi and Anjanadri. Currently, many tourists visiting Hampi skip Anegundi due to time constraints and connectivity issues. With the new boat service, travellers will soon be able to comfortably reach Anegundi directly from Hampi. The new boat has a capacity to carry 35 to 40 passengers, offering a more convenient and spacious travel experience. At present, only small boats operate from Talwaraghatta in Hampi, each accommodating around 10 to 15 people and up to four two-wheelers. These trips are often time-consuming, deterring many from exploring the heritage-rich Anegundi region.

> **"The new launch will be a boon for tourists and locals, making commuting easier and encouraging visits to both sides**
> – Gopalakrishna, boat owner from Anegundi

To address this gap, a larger vessel has been introduced and is expected to become operational within the next two weeks. Brought in from Maharashtra, the new launch can carry not just passengers but also bikes, autorickshaws, and even cars. The river crossing, which currently takes several minutes, will now take just two, making travel quicker and more efficient.

Ticket prices will be finalised through a panchayat tender. While fares may be slightly higher due to increased maintenance costs, the improved service aims to benefit both tourists and daily commuters. All necessary departmental approvals and a successful trial run are pending before the boat is officially cleared for public use.

"The new launch will be a boon for tourists and locals alike. It will make commuting easier and encourage more people to visit both sides of the river," said Gopalakrishna, a boat owner from Anegundi.

Once operational, the service is expected to significantly enhance visitor access and boost local tourism.

Small Talwaraghatta boats replaced by high-capacity launch to ease tourist and local daily travel across Tungabhadra swiftly

'Cohabitation not must for damages'

Tribunal order rejecting man's claim following wife's death in accident modified

INFOCUS HIGH COURT

The High Court has ruled that cohabitation cannot be considered a mandatory requirement for claiming compensation under the Motor Vehicles Act based on loss of dependency.

Justice Ravi V Hosmani issued ruling whilst modifying a tribunal's order that had rejected a man's compensation claim after his wife's death in a road accident.

The Motor Accidents Tribunal had initially acknowledged that the accident resulted from rash driving, causing the claimant's wife's death, making the claimant eligible for compensation from the insurer. Nevertheless, the tribunal cited a complaint from the deceased's brother stating that the deceased wife lived separately from her claimant-husband, using this to deny compensation for loss of dependency.

The High Court said that in this case, the insurance company relied on a complaint made by the deceased's brother. However, he testified that he couldn't read the complaint because he's illiterate. The court said that just because he signed it, it cannot be assumed that he knew what it said. "In any case, the husband would be Class-I heir and dependent on the wife. There is absolutely no material to establish or indicate that the claimant had contracted a second marriage," noted the court, adding that nothing has been elicited in this regard during cross examination of claimants. "Under such circumstances, denial of compensation towards loss of dependency by the tribunal would be contrary to law and compensation has to be computed under said head," declared the High Court. The bench found no dispute regarding the husband-wife relationship or its continuance.

The High Court further stated that courts have repeatedly said the term 'dependents' should be interpreted broadly. It modified the compensation, granting an additional Rs 14,96,250 with 6% annual interest from the claim date until realisation, directing the insurer to deposit this within six weeks.

Transgender admission: Directive to NLSIU

The Karnataka High Court issued a directive to NLSIU, requiring them to present the matter of transgender admission reservations to their Executive Council, scheduled to convene in August-September.

The division bench, comprising Justice Anu Sivaraman and Justice Rajesh Rai K, stated: "We are of the opinion that prayers raised in petitioner and rights to admission requires consideration at the hands of executive council of the University. Ld Sr counsel submits entire aspects of the matter will be considered by the executive council, without undue delay, in Aug-Sept.." —BMB

Digital moolah

5,000+ crore: Digital transactions have taken place in the last six financial years, amounting to more than Rs **12,000** lakh crore, the Parliament was informed on Monday

PIDF: RBI has set up a Payments Infrastructure Development Fund in **2021** to encourage deployment of digital payments acceptance infrastructure in tier-**3** to **6** cities, northeastern states and Jammu & Kashmir

4.77 crore: Digital touch points have been deployed through PIDF as of May **31, 2025**

RBI-DPI: Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI) measures the extent of digitisation of payments across the country

465.33: The RBI-DPI index for September **2024** reflects continued growth in digital payment adoption, infrastructure, and performance across the country — IANS

CLOSERHOME

Union calls TCS firings illegal

The Karnataka State IT/ITeS Employees Union (KITU) has accused Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) of engaging in illegal labour practices by allegedly forcing thousands of employees to resign. The union has labelled the move a clear violation of Indian labour laws and is calling for immediate government intervention.

According to KITU, the retrenchments are taking place without the mandatory permissions required under the Industrial Disputes Act, which mandates that any company employing more than 100 workers must seek prior government approval before initiating layoffs. The union claims that TCS has bypassed this legal requirement, thereby violating statutory provisions. "This action is completely illegal and qualifies as an unfair labour practice," KITU declared in a statement. The union emphasised that no employee is legally obligated to sign a resignation under duress and that such coercion is a punishable offence.

KITU has announced plans to escalate the matter to the Labour Department and has urged the TCS management to reinstate all employees. The union is also rallying broader support from the IT and ITeS workforce across Karnataka, urging employees not to succumb to pressure. "The time to organise and resist is now," said Suhas Adiga, General Secretary of KITU. BMB

17 years on the run, man nabbed

The Yelahanka Suburban Police have arrested a man who had been on the run for 17 years and was wanted in connection with 33 criminal cases across Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

The accused, Murugesh (55), had been absconding since 2008 and was finally tracked down in Tamil Nadu following a tip-off. Police said Murugesh was involved in a series of offences registered in multiple police stations in Bengaluru, Kolar, Kodagu and across Tamil Nadu.

Three of these cases were filed at Yelahanka police station in 2008, but despite extensive searches in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala, the accused had evaded arrest for nearly two decades. A non-bailable warrant had been issued against him during this period. BMB

Men follow, chase 3 women

Three young women shared a frightening experience on Instagram, claiming they were chased by a group of men during what was supposed to be a casual outing. In their video account, the women said they were walking near JP Nagar, when they noticed that some men they had earlier seen at a café they were at trailing them.

The situation escalated when the men, after initially following them on foot, pulled up in a car just as the women were about to board an auto. "They stopped their car right in front of us. The moment we got into the auto, they started chasing us in the car," another woman explained.

Despite pointing out the car to the driver, the women said he remained indifferent to their distress. After roughly ten minutes of being followed, they finally managed to lose the men and reach home safely, they said.

INBRIEF

Darshan fans target Ramya

Actress-turned-politician Divya Spandana, known as Ramya, has filed a complaint with the Police Commissioner's office against 43 Instagram users, many of who are actor Darshan's fans, for sending her offensive and vulgar messages. The Karnataka State Women's Commission has written to Police Commissioner Seemanth Kumar Singh, urging action against the wave of online abuse targeting women.

In her complaint, Spandana stated that she manages a popular Instagram account with over 1.1 million followers and an X account with 844,000 followers. She explained that she had shared news reports about the recent Supreme Court proceedings regarding actor Darshan's bail in the Renuka Swamy murder case. Following her posts, Spandana claimed that disgruntled fans of Darshan began sending her scandalous, awful and obnoxious messages on Instagram. "The messages sent to me are so disgusting and misogynistic that I am unable to even reproduce them in the complaint," she stated. BMB

6 held in dating app extortion

Six people have been arrested for allegedly trapping a tech company employee in a dating app con and extorting ₹2 lakh from him. The arrested have been identified as Sangeeta Sahani (36), Birbal Majjagi (21), Abhishek (19), Shyam Sundar Pandey (20), Raju Mane (34) and Sharanabasappa Baliger (50). The victim, Rakesh Reddy, originally from Telangana and working in Bengaluru for 15 years, lodged a complaint that he met Sangeeta through a dating app a month ago. She introduced herself as "Rocky," a single business analyst living in the city for several years.

After weeks of chatting on WhatsApp, Sangeeta invited him to meet on July 18 at a cafe in Yelahanka. Later, the two went to her house in an auto. While they were there, four men entered, claiming to be the owners of the house. They accused them of drinking alcohol at home and searched their bags, "finding" a white powder they claimed was drugs. The gang then extorted 2 lakh from him. BMB

Man dies by suicide

A 30-year-old man died by suicide in the early hours of Monday near Chikkagollarahatti in Bengaluru North. The deceased has been identified as Naveen, a resident of Sunkadakatte.

According to police, CCTV footage from the area captured the harrowing sequence of events. Naveen, who had earlier suffered a fracture in his leg during an accident, made a suicide attempt around 2 am outside his friend's house. When that failed, he made another attempt that took his life.

According to media sources it is alleged that Naveen had a heated argument with his family earlier in the night and called a friend in Chikkagollarahatti asking for urgent financial help. The friend gave him 2,000 before Naveen poured oil on his house and left. Locals who discovered the body early in the morning initially suspected foul play after noticing blood at the scene and alerted Madanayakanahalli police.

Senior officers, including Nelamangala DySP Jagadish and Inspector Murali, visited the spot. For a brief period, police suspected murder due to the bloodstains and broken bottle, but CCTV footage confirmed it to be a case of suicide. BMB

Birth certificate forgery: SC quashes FIR against Lakshya Sen

The Supreme Court on Monday quashed an FIR against badminton player Lakshya Sen, his family members and coach in the birth certificate forgery case.

A bench of Justices Sudhanshu Dhulia and Aravind Kumar said the continuation of criminal proceedings against Sen was an abuse of the process of court.

The top court observed that the very allegations that were examined and debunked by competent authorities were now being sought to be revived as it ruled out any fresh evidence meriting reopening of the inquiry.

"The appellants, particularly appellant 1 and 3, are sportspersons of national standing, having represented India in international badminton tournaments and having earned multiple accolades, including medals at the Commonwealth Games and BWF international events," the court said.

The top court went on, "To compel such individuals who have maintained an unblemished record and brought distinction to the country through sustained excellence,to undergo the ordeal of a criminal trial in the absence of prima facie material would not subserve the ends of justice."

The invocation of criminal law in such circumstances, the bench held, would amount to an abuse of process, which this court cannot countenance.

The top court observed the Sports Authority of India (SAI), upon receiving complaints, initiated a verification process in 2016, which included medical testing and factual inquiries. **PTI**

Helpline is getting 93 calls every half hour

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

for almost 80% of the total cybercrime cases, with educated individuals and retired government employees among the most targeted victims.

Fraudsters lure victims through mobile apps, social media advertisements, and phishing messages. Fake investment schemes, instant loan applications, and impersonation scams remain common tactics.

According to NCRB data for Karnataka in 2024, Bengaluru recorded that investment fraud accounted for 42.9% of cases, resulting in 70.51% of the total amount lost, job fraud made up 16% of cases with 14.96% of the amount losses, and digital arrest (courier scam) cases were 15.3%, leading to 7.43% of the total amount lost.

A cyber police official said, "Fraudsters misuse social media platforms like Telegram, Facebook, WhatsApp and Instagram to recruit unwitting individuals, often by posing as legitimate employers or offering quick cash opportunities. Cybercriminals create accounts and groups using keywords such as 'bank accounts', 'corporate accounts', 'account business', 'renting account' and 'gaming funds' to connect with vulnerable individuals and procure mule accounts. This also helps prevent direct connections between money mules and cybercriminals, reducing the chances of detection or arrest. Common victims include students, unemployed individuals, or those in financial distress."

Cyber police have intensified their vigilance on criminal networks, but officials admit that the fraud web is expanding rapidly. One major concern is the 'golden hour' , the critical period immediately after a fraudulent transaction when money can be traced or frozen. The government has upgraded the 1930 helpline and integrated it with a web-based complaint portal, enabling quicker case registration and better tracking.

"People should be cautious about downloading third-party apps, sharing personal information online, and responding to unsolicited investment offers," the officer added. As the numbers mount, authorities urge the public to immediately report suspicious activities and fraud attempts to the helpline. The cybercrime unit has also increased campaigns across social media and community programs to educate citizens about online scams.

With cybercriminals growing more sophisticated, experts warn that only timely reporting, public awareness, and improved digital security can curb further losses.

ZONED OUT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

lakes of different sizes. "On what grounds have they categorised the lakes and come up with different categories of buffer zones? Buffer zones around lakes are flood shock zones that keep the city safe and build its resilience in the face of climate change. Reducing the size of buffer zones will make Bengaluru prone to floods. The earlier rule of a uniform 30-metre buffer zone around all the lakes should be maintained and filled with vegetation," said Professor Ramachandra.

Researchers say a scientific approach should be used to arrive at buffer zone areas, considering Bengaluru is going to get a World Bank loan.

"While the KTCDA amendment around buffer zones may be considered as a pragmatic approach in an urban scenario, it is advisable to draw a conclusion based on a scientific and knowledge-led approach.

With the World Bank loan coming our way, it will be wise to calculate customised buffer zones for lakes based on multi-layered modeling and simulations. However, customised outcomes should then be enforced completely without exceptions," said Dr Veena Srinivasan, executive director, WELL Labs.

Experts say the purpose of the lake buffer zones is to safeguard both the surrounding communities and the biodiversity that depends on it, but this scientific and nature-based approach is being overlooked or defied, with potentially severe long-term consequences.

"Such reductions in lakes' buffer zone area will undermine conservation efforts by experts and citizen lake groups and could lead to environmental disasters. We urge the government and all stakeholders to carefully evaluate the implications of this step before finalizing the decision. Lakes are vital lifelines, not just water bodies, whose protection requires respect for science, nature, and community well-being," said Madhuri Subbarao Jois, co-founder, Friends of Lakes.

"We are left with few lakes in Bengaluru. Lake biodiversity is reducing at an alarming rate due to increasing urbanisation, failure of the sewage network, and reduced water quality. The lake buffer zones should be maintained as per the Supreme Court guidelines to save water commons for future generations," said Raghavendra B Pacchhapur, a city-based lake activist.

The Federation of Bengaluru Lakes (FBL) has expressed concern over the proposed amendments to the KTCDA rules. While acknowledging the practical challenges of implementing uniform buffer zones, FBL warns against any blanket regularisation that could weaken environmental safeguards.

"The government should consult citizen groups, adopt lake-wise assessments, and focus on enforcement, not rollback. This is not the time to legalise past neglect, but to restore trust and ecological balance through transparency and science-based policymaking," said a spokesperson of FBL, an association of more than 47 citizen lake groups.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE CITY CIVIL JUDGE AT BANGALORE (CCH-45)

P & SC No. 349/2025

BETWEEN : Smt. Puttalakshmamma W/o M. Venkatesh, Aged about 50 years, Residing at No. 1, Guddadahalli, Near Basavanna Temple, Hesaraghatta Hobli, Bangalore - 560 088. .... Petitioner

- And -

- NiL- ....Respondent.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The petitioners filed an above petition for relief of the probate in respect to the suit schedule property before this Hon'ble court calming that late Channamma is the grandmother of Puttalakshmamma. The late Channamma died on 05.05.2021 and has bee executed a registered will on 25.07.2014 in favour of Smt. Puttalakshmamma. In respect agricultural land bearing No. 33, measuring 0-10 guntas situated at Myadarahalli Village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore District.

The above case is pending before this Hon'ble Court. The above case is posted on **20.08.2025.** Any person having any objections, any claims, any right, title and any interest in the suit schedule property are described. They have to appear in this court in person or by the pleader on **20.08.2025 at 11.00 a.m.** failing which the petition will be heard and disposed of as per law.

DESCRIPTION

All the piece and parcel of the agricultural land bearing by No. 33, measuring 0-10 guntas, situated at Myadarahalli Village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore District, Bounded on the **East by:** Government Road, **West by :** Land belongs to Sy. No. 34. **North by :** Road. **South by :** Remaining Land in Sy. No. 33. Giving under my hand and seal of this court on 19.07.2025.

By the Court order

Sd/- **Senior Shirastedar**
City Civil Court, Bangalore

Advocate for Petitioners
S. Kumar, Advocate, Malleshwaram, Bangalore-03. 094480 76798.
Place: Bangalore Dt: 19.07.2025

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ANTURU SHURESHA S/o. Anturu Yallappa, residing at No. 14, new No. 19, Ground floor, 4th A Cross, Kathriguppe main road, Vivekananda Nagar, Bengaluru-560085, have changed my name to SURESH A, vide affidavit dated 12.07.2025, sworn before notary S.N Madhu, Bangalore.

I, SHANTHAMMA W/o. Sri. K. Srinivasa Naidu, Resident at No. 234, Maruthi Nilaya, 2nd Cross, Near Standard School, T. Dasarahalli, Bangalore-560057 have changed my name to SHANTHAMMA. L. vide affidavit dated: 11.07.2025 Sworn before notary V Anjanappa, Bengaluru

I, Manjunatha Srinivas Son of Srinivas R/o No 547/A Godhavari River Road 5th main Pipeline Road Srinagar Bengaluru 560050 have changed my name from Name Manjunatha Srinivas to Manjunath Srinivas all Puposes.

I, Padmavathy T V, W/o Vijayaganesh T V, R/o 009, Vaastu Hillview-2, Bangarappa Main Road, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bengaluru-560098 have changed my name from G K Padmavathy to Padmavathy T V vide affidavit No IN-KA00862561030072X dated 28.07.2025 for all the purpose

I, ANTURU NAGARAJ S/o. Anthur Yallappa, residing at No. 8, 1st Cross, 3rd Main, new Kempegowda Layout, Kattriguppe, BSK 3rd Stage, Bengaluru-560085, have changed my name to RAJU ANTHUR, vide affidavit dated 12.07.2025, sworn before notary S.N Madhu, Bangalore.

I Sowmya Suresh B S urf Sowmya B S d/o Suresh B S # 37/2, 6th Cross , Singasandra Bengaluru -68 hereby declare that Sowmya Suresh B S & Sowmya B S both the names belongs to me and in future Sowmya Suresh B S for all documents dated 22/7/25

I, Mehr Avinash Gujar W/o Avinash G Gujar R/o 584, 9th A main, Indiranagar 1stage Extn, Bengaluru 560038 have changed my name to Mehr Sorab Poonawalla Affidavit Dt.28/07/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Varasha Hanchinamani D/o Vijayakumar R/o #772, Vashista Building, 1st C Main, Girinagar 1st Phase, BSK 3rd Stage, B'luru 560085 have changed my name to Shreenidhi Hanchinamani for all Purposes.

I, Ashok Kumar S/o Mangilal Residing at No. 20 14th Cross 12th Main Wilson Garden Bangalore 560027.Have changed my name to M ASHOK KUMAR for all purposes affidavit dt 28.07.25 before notarary V Rajashekara, Bangalore

I, Baby Ismath Razzaque W/o Abdur Razzaque R/o #31, 5th Cross Chikkabasthi,Doddabasthi Main Rd, Ullalu Upanagara B'luru-560056 have changed my name to Baby Ismath.

I, Parameshwar Pushpagiri Vaidyanathan, R/o 7C-1002, Provident Sunworth, Venkatapura Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bengaluru 560060, have changed my name to Parameshwar Vaidyanathan vide affidavit dated 23.07.2025.

I, Ausaaf Mohammed S/O Riyaz Ahmed # 194 Robertsonpet kgf-563122 have changed my name to Ausaf Mohammed for all purposes

I, Shivashankar V R/o 26, 2nd main, 6th cross, Soudhamani Lyt, Konanakunte, Bengaluru 560062 have changed my minor daughter name from Chandana Shivashankar to Chandana Priya S. Affidavit Dt.28/07/2025 notary H R Karunakara, B'luru

I, ISMAIL SHARIFF Y. S/o: Yacoob Shariff. R/o: NO 8, 3RD FLOOR, SHAIK NATHAD LANE, QUEENS ROAD CROSS, TASKER TOWN, SHIVAJINAGAR, BANGALORE: 560051 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ISMAIL SHARIFF

I, N Sarada, W/o T Narase Gowda, R/at Behind KSRTC Depo, Hirebdnur Gouribadnur taluk, Chikkaballapur district, Karnataka, have changed my name to N SHARADA, For all purposes.

I, Prakash Chand S/o Bharhulalji Kakariya # No -28 6th Cross Road, Satyanarayan Mandir, Chamrajpet, B lore - 560018 have changed my name to Prakash Chand Kakariya for all purposes.

I, Kaushik Jain Vijaykumar Jain S/o Vijaykumar Jain Kishanlal R/o No 15th Cross Maruthi Layout Virupaksha pura Kodigehalli Bengaluru 560097 have changed my name from Kaushik Jain Vijaykumar Jain to Kaushik Vijaykumar Jain for all Purposes

I, Rabindra Bej F/O No 14849443H Hav Poltu Bej resi of Purba Medinipur (WB) have changed my name to Rabindra Nath Bej before notary pub Bangalore

I Abdul Wasim Akram Masood, R/o 23, 1B 2nd Floor, 2nd Cross, Giddappa Block, Ganganagar , Bangalore North, Bangalore - 560032, have changed my name to Abdul Wasim Akram

GALLERIA

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SINGAPORE MALAYSIA/THAILAND* 7/11* DAYS	SEPT: 10 OCT: 6 NOV: 3
BANGKOK PATTAYA 5 DAYS	SEPT: 16 OCT: 12 NOV: 9
BHUTAN 8 DAYS	SEPT: 23 OCT: 8, 18, 25
BALI (INDONESIA) 7 DAYS	AUG: 27 SEPT: 15
VIETNAM 8 DAYS	AUG: 18 SEPT: 22
SRI LANKA 7 DAYS	AUG:28 SEPT: 10, 20 OCT: 5, 15, 25
NEPAL WITH MUKTINATH 8 DAYS	SEPT: 9, 23 OCT: 7, 21
HONG KONG, MACAU, SHENZHEN 7 DAYS	OCT: 26

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HEALTH TIP: One of the most common signs of Vitamin A deficiency is difficulty seeing in low light or darkness

Put your health and yourself first, and practise gratitude, yoga, and meditation to relieve stress

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SNOT SIGNS

What phlegm can – and can't – say about your health

When you're sick you'll often produce more phlegm, and might notice it's thicker or a different colour: white, green, yellow or maybe even brown.

What can this phlegm – also called mucus, snot, sputum, catarrh and booger – really tell us about our health?

Here's what to look for, and when to see a doctor.

What is phlegm?

We all produce mucus, even when healthy. Mucus is a barrier to the outside world that helps protect the organs in our bodies.

It's produced by special cells within the epithelium. This is a tissue that lines the organs, cavities and surfaces in your body, including your eyes, mouth, digestive system and respiratory system (nasal passages and lungs).

Cells in this epithelial lining constantly secrete mucus. It acts as:

- a lubricant, preventing tissues from drying out
- a physical barrier filtering out and trapping particles such as dust, allergens and bacteria
- an immune barrier which contains various antimicrobial molecules that can kill a wide range of bacteria, fungi and even viruses.

Why do we produce more mucus when we're sick?

The epithelium is one of the body's first lines of defence when we have an infection. When these cells detect a pathogen – whether bacteria or a virus – they produce more mucus to strengthen the body's physical and immune barriers.

Your body's immune response causes inflammation, and this makes you produce more mucus. This excessive production and build-up is called mucus hypersecretion.

We often feel this is in our nasal passages when we have a cold, and sometimes lungs if we have a chest infection.

Usually, the epithelium's cilia – long, hair-like cells – propel this mucus away and keep our airway passages clear.

But infections might damage or over-work the cilia, making us need to cough up phlegm or blow our noses to deal with this build-up.

Allergies are similar – your immune system overreacts to harmless substances (such as dust, pollen and certain foods) and produces excessive amounts of mucus.

Hypersecretion also affects people with chronic illness such as asthma, cystic fibrosis and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

Why does mucus get thicker?

Being sick can also affect the consistency of phlegm.

In a healthy person, mucus is around 90–95 per cent water – the rest is made up of proteins called mucins and salts. This is why snot is usually clear and runny.

But when you're sick, or recovering from an infection, studies suggest you produce more mucin proteins. These make your phlegm thicker.

This can give you a stuffy head, blocked nose or mean mucus accumulates and trickles to the back of your throat. This is known as post-nasal drip – also a common source of cough.

What about colour?

Thick mucus that is white or cloudy is usually an early sign of an infection, such as a cold. It may also indicate inflammation from allergies or chronic conditions such as asthma.

In the later stages of infection, snot is generally green, yellow or even brown. The greenish-yellow tinge comes from an enzyme called myeloperoxidase produced by immune cells that are fighting the infection.

Brownish-red mucus usually means it contains blood. This may happen when your nasal passages are damaged or irritated, often from blowing your nose a lot or because they're dry.

This usually isn't a cause for concern when blowing your nose. But if you cough up blood (haemoptysis) it can indicate something more serious, including a serious lung infection or even cancer. You should speak to a medical professional.

Black mucus is rare. It can be the sign of a fungal infection, or exposure to pollutants such as coal, dust or cigarette smoke. You should see a doctor if your mucus is black.

So, do I need antibiotics?

Your doctor may ask about your phlegm to make a diagnosis – its colour, consistency and how much you're producing.

But studies show patients' descriptions might not always be consistent or match observations made by a health-care professional.

So, a doctor may use a sputum colour chart to differentiate between viral and bacterial infections and decide whether to prescribe antibiotics.

Some evidence suggests yellowish-green mucus might be caused by a bacterial infection, rather than a virus (which won't respond to antibiotics).

However, it's not always the case.

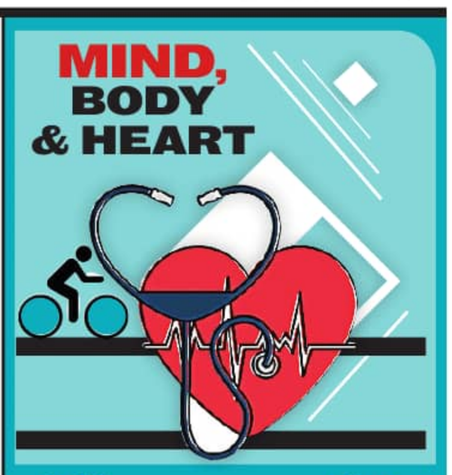
So, the colour of your phlegm is not enough by itself to accurately diagnose an infection and tell if you need antibiotics.

But if you're producing a lot of mucus and the colour or consistency is different from normal, it could be the sign your body is fighting an infection.

Drinking lots of fluids or use of decongestant sprays may help in the short term.

However, if you have additional symptoms, such as a fever, fatigue or loss of appetite for more than one to two weeks, speak to a health-care professional.

(By Lynn Nazareth, CSIRO, Australia, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Anti-dandruff hair masks

1. Yoghurt & Honey Calm-Down Mask
Yoghurt's probiotics calm the scalp while the honey binds moisture in and reduces flakes. To make this, mix half a cup of plain yoghurt with two tablespoons of raw honey. You can put this mask on from roots to ends, leave for 30 minutes, and rinse off.
Best For: Sensitive or dry scalps
When To Use: Once a week for continual soothing and hydration.

2. Tea Tree & Aloe Scalp Detox
Tea tree oil's antimicrobial power combines with aloe's cooling effect. Mix together 2 tablespoons of aloe vera gel with 5 drops of tea tree oil. Massage into the scalp, wait 20 minutes, and rinse.
Best For: Oily or acne-prone scalps
When To Use: Every seven to ten days to keep oil and flakes away.

3. Coconut Oil & Lemon Clarifier
Coconut oil abundantly nourishes the hair and lemon juice attacks dandruff, killing the fungi that cause it. Mix two tablespoons of melted coconut oil and a teaspoon of lemon juice together. Massage onto a dry scalp, specifically targeting irritated spots. Allow the mixture to sit for a minimum of 30 minutes before rinsing with shampoo.
Best For: Normal to dry scalps.
When To Use: Once a week for balanced scalp health.

4. Fenugreek Seed Soothing Paste
Soak two tablespoons of fenugreek seeds overnight. Blend soaked seeds into a paste. Apply paste to scalp. Leave on hair for 30 minutes before rinsing out. Fenugreek seeds have calming properties which helps to soothe irritation and inflammation.
Best For: Irritated scalp (with or without flakes) or inflamed skin.
When To Use: Once a week for a calm, flake-free scalp.

— Femina

MIRRORLIGHTS

Stuttering caused by genes: Study

Understanding the causes of stuttering may no longer be a mystery, as US researchers on Monday provided evidence to show that the speech disorder is influenced by our genes.

Stuttering -- characterised by syllable and word repetitions, sound prolongations, and breaks between words -- is the most common fluency disorder, with more than 400 million people affected worldwide. And yet, the causes of this common speech disorder are unclear.

In the paper, published in the journal Nature Genetics, the researchers identified 48 genes, and 57 distinct genomic loci associated with the speech disorder, based on genetic data of more than 1 million individuals.

The findings may lead to earlier identification or therapeutic advances in stuttering and help replace outdated views of stuttering often held by the general public that contribute to stigma, said the researchers. "No one really understands why someone stutters; it has been a complete mystery. And that's true for most speech and language pathologies. They are profoundly understudied because they don't put people in the hospital, but they can have enormous consequences on people's quality of life," said Jennifer (Piper) Below, Professor of Medicine at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

"We need to understand risk factors for speech and language traits so that we can identify kids early and get appropriate care for those that want it," she said.

Young people who stutter report increased bullying, decreased classroom participation, and a more negative educational experience.

Stuttering can also negatively impact employment opportunities and perceived job performance, and mental and social well-being, Below noted. "Rather than being caused by personal or familial failings or intelligence, our study shows that stuttering is influenced by our genes," Below said. **—IANS**

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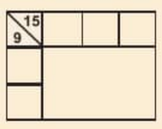
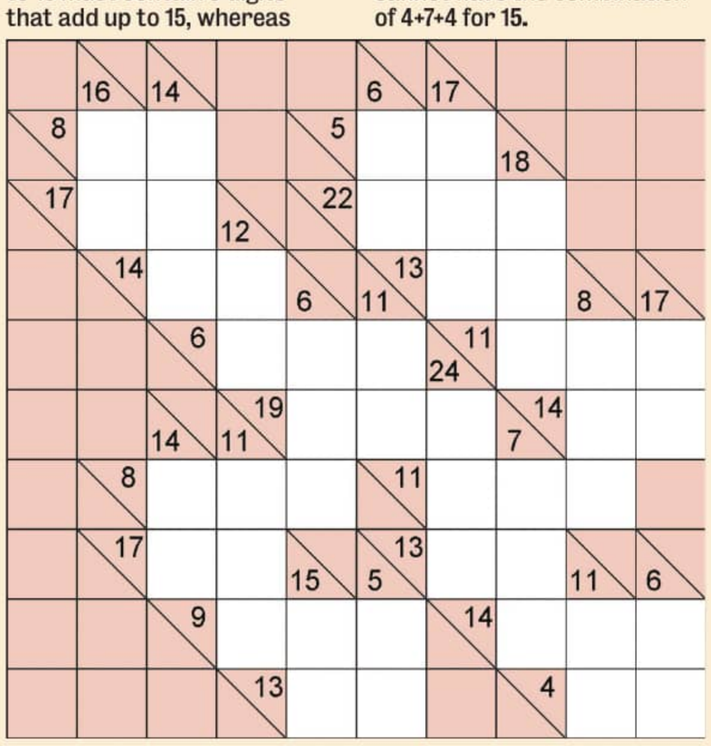
Kakuro

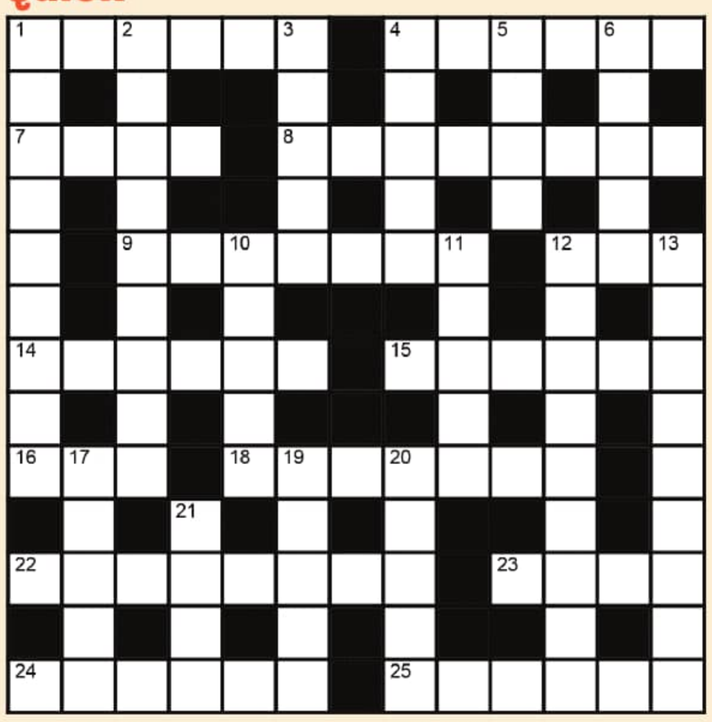
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 The capital of Croatia (6)
4 Bollywood's Kumar ___ (6)
7 Tehran's locale (4)
8 Self-admirers (8)
9 Avoiding a blow or an unpleasant task (7)
12 300 in Roman numerals (3)
14 Lazing (6)
15 Dog's house (6)
16 Male cat (3)
18 Self-important (5-2)
22 Ace pines anagram for wisdom? (8)
23 Fashion magazine (4)
24 ___ ___ language : be abusive? (3,3)
25 Employs again (6)

DOWN

1 The spirit of the age (9)
2 Bidding and making all thirteen tricks at bridge (5,4)
3 Bare, exposed; dreary (5)
4 Developed (5)
5 Single digit (4)
6 Ancient Mexican (5)
10 American coins (5)
11 Foreign language (5)
12 Multiplex on Banerghatta road (9)
13 Bowl-shaped strainers (9)
17 Precious stones (5)
19 Adjusted pitch (5)
20 Hurrah (5)
21 An arm, or a leg (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: U EQUALS Y

DIOSCXTU LT OSS ZWI RXK UCX ZWLKG ZWIU WOQ.

Linemaro

Good evening. Can a thorn sit down next to a rose?

Mindchow

To be in love is merely to be in a perpetual state of anesthesia

Joke of the day

Most new books are forgotten within a year, especially by those who borrow them

Loop

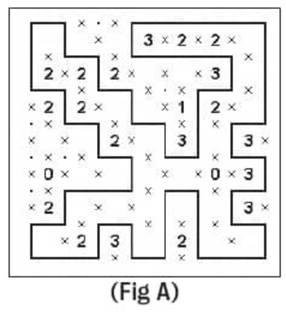
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

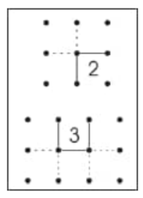
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

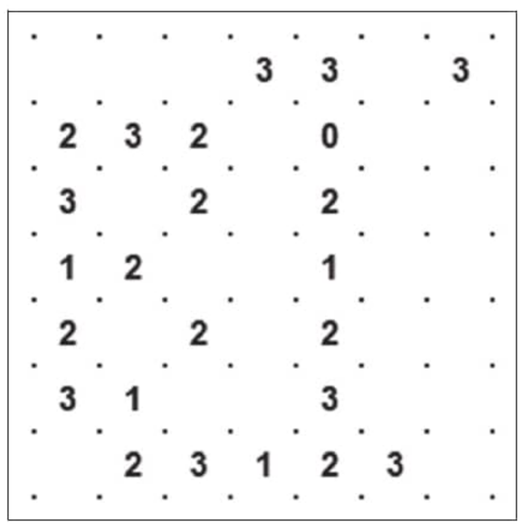
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



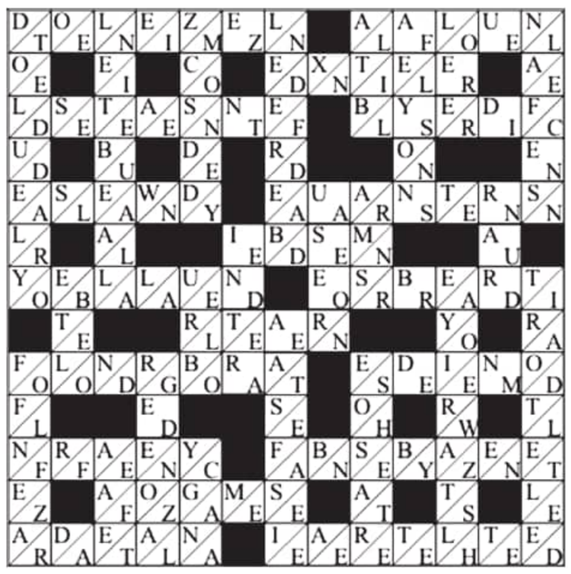
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



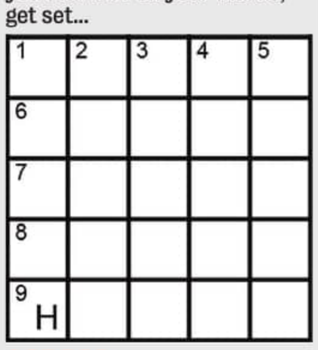
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

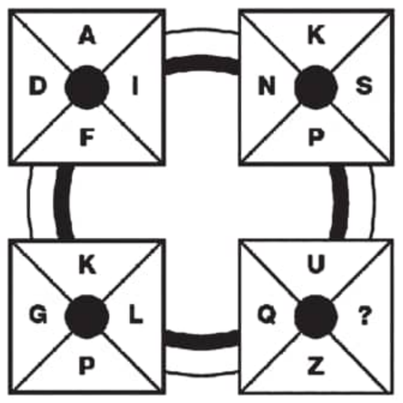
1 Carbs; 6 Terne; 7 Y I fun; 8 Loots; 9 Gen he

DOWN

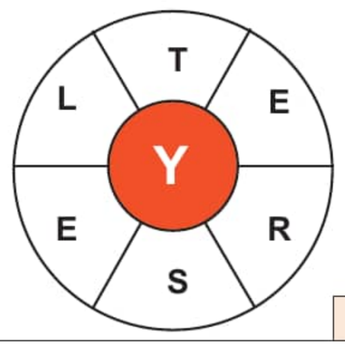
1 Sh cur; 2 Enter; 3 On ani; 4 Of Beg; 5 TE sly

Mensapuzzle

Which letter replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

05 Average; **06** Good; **08** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

3			2	8			9	
				9	6			1
						5		4
		9	5			2	7	
				4				
	1	5			3	6		
9		4						
1			3	7				
	3			1	4			9

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy

= 6

3 4 7 8

Medium

= 3

3 5 5 6

Hard

= 31

3 5 9 1

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

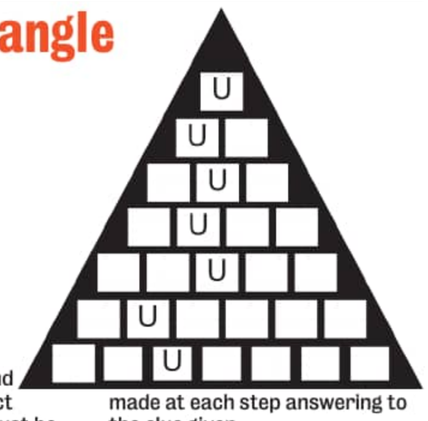
Differences: 1. Pocket is smaller. 2. Patient is thinner. 3. Lamp is higher. 4. Foot is moved. 5. Finger is moved. 6. Door is wider.

Riddler

These series follow a pattern. 2 4 8 1 17 476 65 20987 3571890 This series does not follow the pattern 18 79 45 What is the pattern?

Alpha triangle

1 21st letter
2 An ancient city
3 Have remorse
4 Tempt
5 More sad
6 Babble
7 Whale fat

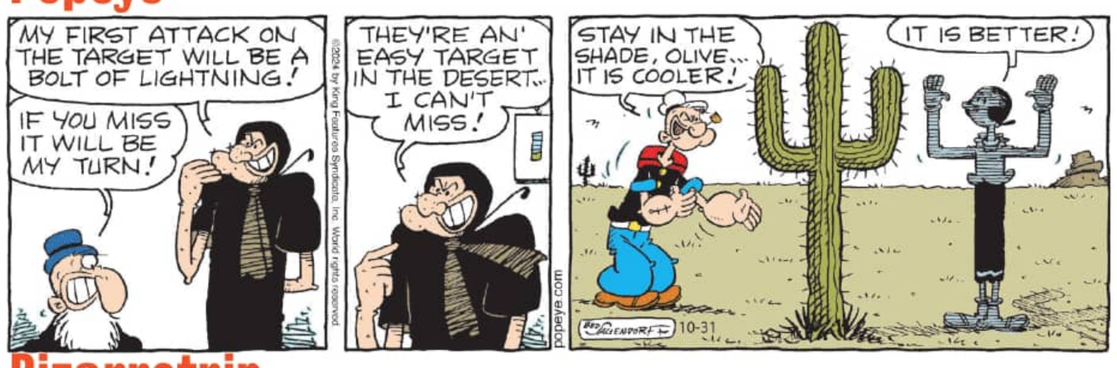


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

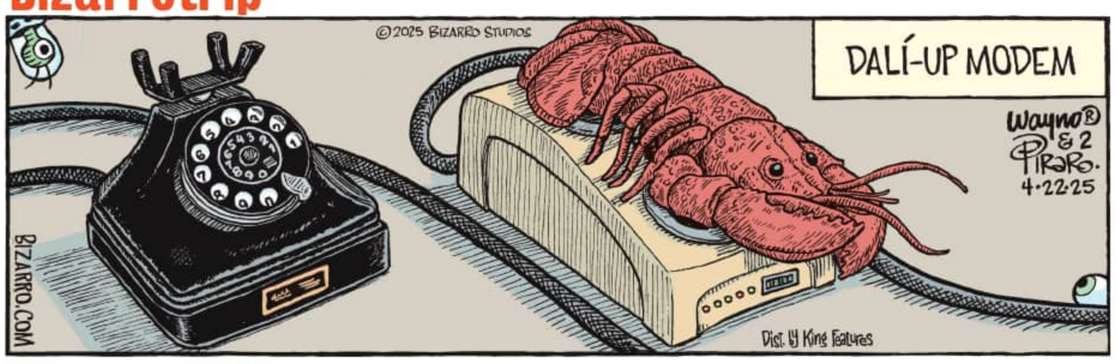
DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye


MY FIRST ATTACK ON THE TARGET WILL BE A BOLT OF LIGHTNING!
IF YOU MISS IT WILL BE MY TURN!
THEY'RE AN' EASY TARGET IN THE DESERT... I CAN'T MISS!
STAY IN THE SHADE, OLIVE... IT IS COOLER!
IT IS BETTER!
10-31
popeye.com

Bizarrotrip

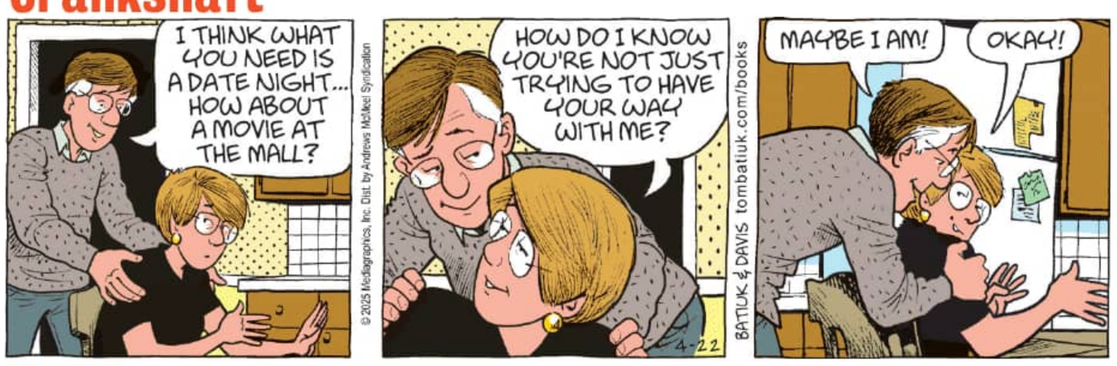


Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

HI, CAN WE GET THE FACE WASH FROM BEHIND THIS GLASS?
FACE WASH
BODY WASH
SURE! LET ME GET THE BEAUTY MANAGER TO OPEN IT FOR YOU.
FIVE MINUTES LATER
DID YOU NEED ANY HELP?
YEAH, WE'RE WAITING FOR THE BEAUTY MANAGER TO OPEN THE GLASS CASE.
OH! LET ME GO GET HER!
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
WE'RE GONNA BE HERE FOREVER, AREN'T WE?
GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft


I THINK WHAT YOU NEED IS A DATE NIGHT... HOW ABOUT A MOVIE AT THE MALL?
HOW DO I KNOW YOU'RE NOT JUST TRYING TO HAVE YOUR WAY WITH ME?
MAYBE I AM!
OKAY!
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BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books
4-22

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may find yourself occupied with home-related matters. You might purchase decorative or creative items to enhance your living space, boosting your social standing. Investment in property or other fixed assets is likely. Romantic moments with your spouse may strengthen your emotional bond, and singles could receive promising news about marriage.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
A sense of happiness surrounds you today. Elderly family members may recover from health issues. Stuck finances may be released, improving your business liquidity. Professionals may consider changing jobs to advance their careers, and job seekers might secure a position through a friend's recommendation. Those in government or state-related fields could benefit significantly.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
You may feel inclined to expand your knowledge and understand the value of intellectual growth. Controlling your temper will help smooth your workflow. Earnings may become more consistent, adding comfort to your routine. However, avoid speculative investments for now. Spending on loved ones may bring joy, and romantic relationships will remain pleasant.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
You may feel low on energy and struggle to keep up with your responsibilities. Small errors could lower your confidence, and project delays may hinder professional progress. Your efficiency might dip, so it's wise to consult elders before making major decisions. Take extra care with your daily tasks.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Your energy and focus will be high today, helping you move forward with ongoing projects. Support from colleagues may assist in launching a new venture that promises future profits. Short family-related trips could arise. Job seekers may hear encouraging news about employment.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Creativity will play a key role in both personal and professional spheres today, elevating your social image. You'll control unnecessary expenses, which helps boost savings. Love birds may receive family support regarding marriage, and students may get good news in their academics.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
After recent challenges, today brings relief and clarity. Your inner strength may empower you to take bold decisions in the family business, potentially leading to growth. Helping those in need could enhance your social reputation. Students may find clarity while choosing their career paths.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Low energy and health concerns could trouble you today. Anxiety or restlessness might affect your mood. It's best to postpone major investments or business deals. Avoid rash driving and long-distance travel. Meditation or relaxation techniques may help you restore inner peace and improve sleep.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Elders' blessings bring positivity and contentment. Past losses may turn into gains, and savings could improve your financial security. You might consider investments for your children's future. Enjoying good food and quality time at home will boost your mood. Throat, ear, or dental issues may also improve.

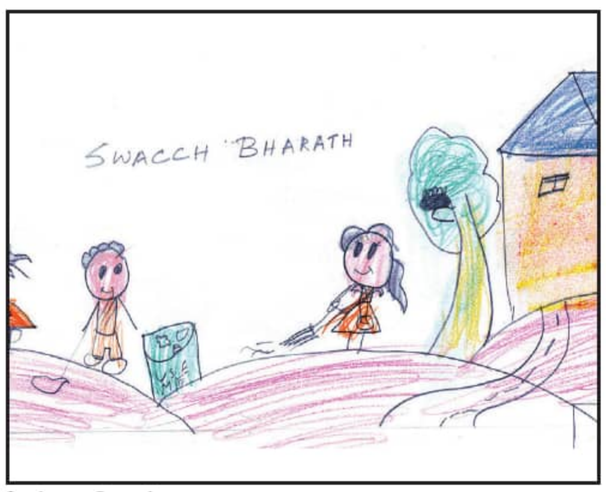
Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
You'll find joy and satisfaction in your work today. Recognition or promotion may follow your hard efforts. Helping others could earn you more social respect. However, mental fatigue from overwork may cause you to miss family gatherings. On the bright side, your parents' health is likely to improve.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Projects that were previously stalled may now resume on their own. You'll feel content with your professional progress. A short work-related trip or a visit to a spiritual place may bring mental clarity. Elder guidance may illuminate the path toward achieving your goals.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
You may feel physically or emotionally drained today. Health concerns could interfere with your plans. Avoid making hasty decisions and read all documents carefully before signing. Recovering owed money might be difficult. Avoid risky travel, and students should focus deeply on their studies. Those in research, occult, or exploration fields may perform exceptionally well.

KIDZONE

Purab, Bengaluru



Sanjanna, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
$3^6 \times (3^{-1} - 3)) \times 3^2) = 3^5 = 243$

RIDDLER
The numbers must be in ascending order. This can be a fun one to have people work out in person, as they test out three-number series and you can tell them whether or not they satisfy the pattern.

QUOTE UNCODE
Jealousy is all the fun you think they had.

BULL'S EYE
leery, lyre, rely, slyer, steely, style, TERSELY, tyre

FAST FIVE

C	R	A	B	S
R	E	N	E	T
S	T	O	O	L
U	N	I	F	Y
H	E	N	G	E

STRIKE OUT

D	E	N	I	Z	E	N	■	A	F	O	U	L	■	■
O	■	E	■	O	■	E	X	I	L	E	■	A	■	■
D	E	T	E	N	T	E	■	L	Y	R	I	C	■	■
E	L	A	N	D	■	E	A	R	N	E	R	S	■	■
R	■	L	■	I	D	E	M	■	U	■	■	■	■	■
Y	E	L	L	E	D	■	O	S	B	E	R	T	■	■
■	E	■	■	L	E	A	N	■	Y	■	R	■	■	■
O	L	D	G	O	A	T	■	S	E	E	N	O	■	■
F	■	E	■	E	■	H	■	W	■	■	T	■	■	■
F	R	A	N	C	■	A	B	E	Y	A	N	T	■	■
E	■	F	O	A	M	S	■	A	■	S	■	E	■	■
R	A	T	A	N	■	E	A	R	T	H	E	D	■	■

QUICK

U	S	E	B	A	D	■	R	E	U	S	S	E	S	■
L	■	M	■	E	■	E	■	I	■	■	■	■	R	■
S	A	P	I	E	N	C	E	■	E	L	L	E	■	■
P	■	L	■	U	■	H	■	O	■	■	■	D	■	■
T	O	M	■	S	T	U	C	K	U	P	■	N	■	■
S	■	A	■	T	■	E	■	■	■	E	■	A	■	■
I	D	L	I	N	G	■	K	E	N	N	E	L	■	■
E	■	S	■	E	■	R	■	I	■	■	O	■	■	■
G	D	U	C	K	I	N	G	■	C	C	C	■	■	■
T	■	N	■	A	■	W	■	T	■	E	■	■	■	■
I	R	A	N	■	E	G	O	T	I	S	T	S	■	■
E	■	R	■	L	■	R	■	N	■	Z	■	■	■	■
Z	A	G	R	E	B	■	G	A	U	R	A	V	A	■

MENSA PUZZLE
V. Start with the top segment of the top left square, and move directly downwards. Each group of 4 letters follows the alphabetic sequence, in steps of 5 letters at a time. Taking other straight lines vertically and horizontally through the diagram, letters follow the same pattern.

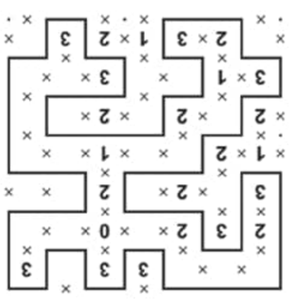
SUDOKU

3	4	1	2	8	5	7	9	6
5	7	2	4	9	6	3	8	1
8	9	6	1	3	7	5	2	4
4	8	9	5	6	1	2	7	3
6	2	3	7	4	8	9	1	5
7	1	5	9	2	3	6	4	8
9	6	4	8	5	2	1	3	7
1	5	8	3	7	9	4	6	2
2	3	7	6	1	4	8	5	9

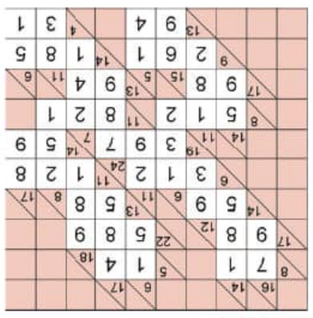
ALPHA TRIANGLE
U, Un, Rue, Lure, Bluer, Burble, Blubber.

GO FIGURE
Easy
4 + 7 − 8 + 3 = 6
Medium
6 − 3 + 5 − 5 = 3
Hard
9 x 3 − 1 + 5 = 31

LOOP



KAKURO



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 # Ticket to Sholay Actor Amitabh Bachchan walked down memory lane and shared a picture of the old ticket from his blockbuster film 'Sholay', which cost only Rs 20 back in time

Driven by content

Independent films more fulfilling to Shahana than big money-spinners

Known for her indie movies, Shahana Goswami has also been a part of quintessential Bollywood films like Ra.One and Heroine.

Reflecting on her shift from commercial big-budget films to content-driven movies, she says, "Each of those projects had a different pull and attraction for me in terms of the journey that I had. As for the feeling of fulfilment where my craft is concerned, I didn't feel that very much. I felt like I was selling myself short. I realised that the problem at that time, at least with these bigger and more commercial films, was that smaller characters were not always very well-written or well-crafted into the storyline. So, there wasn't much of a graph or much to do. I knew I was capable of so much more."

Talking further about her career choice, the Rock On actress says, "Right after those few films, I started doing leads in independent films, which was fulfilling. I would be happy to be a part of a big commercial project that allows the character to have meat, but that hasn't happened. Bollywood is driven by commerce. So, the good roles will be given to people who bring money to the table through their name and fame. That's the dynamic. It's almost impossible or unheard of that there would be some completely new person picked just for the fact that they are a good actor."

So, does the industry's pecking order ever leave her bitter? Shahana says, "I enjoyed Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani. I would've loved to play Rani, but that's not a possibility. So, it doesn't upset me because I do understand that there is a commercial aspect to it. If the same script was being made by somebody else, maybe they would have made a different film. However, I understand that the minute it's a Karan Johar film, it needs names that are commercially viable. Maybe they could make a different choice, but I don't think so much about it. It doesn't really bother me. I'm content doing what I am doing and everything else would be a bonus."

—Vinay Mishra, ETimes

'Saw things, didn't raise my voice'

Actress Triptii Dimri, who is gearing up for the release of her upcoming film "Dhadak 2", shared that she has been an introvert, faced things and not raised her voice against them.

In her upcoming film Dhadak 2, Triptii and her co-star Siddhant Chaturvedi fight casteism for their love, bringing a realistic lens to the concept.

Referring to the character Vidhi, the actress said: "She is not afraid to speak her truth. There is so much to learn from her because she makes you feel empowered."

"I have been an introvert. I've seen and faced things, and not raised my voice against them."

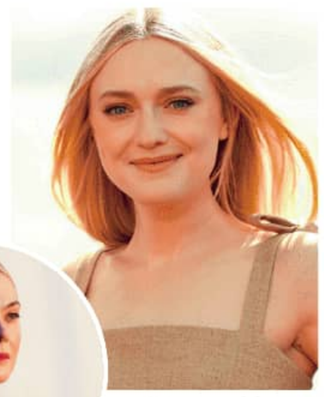
Triptii said that for "30 years of my life, I have kept quiet about so many things."

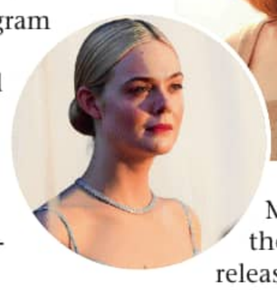
"I never had the guts to tell people that it's wrong. I told Shazia that I want to be like Vidhi; that by the end of this film, I should have the courage to speak my truth without being scared of anyone or the outcome. Now, I do stand up for the right things. This film made me open up a lot more," she added. Directed by Shazia Iqbal, Dhadak 2 is scheduled to release on August 1. The romantic drama film is a spiritual sequel to Dhadak and a remake of the Tamil film Pariyerum Perumal.

Triptii has a few more interesting projects in her kitty, including Vishal Bhardwaj's next with Shahid Kapoor.

—IANS

Sisters' act





Hollywood actresses and real-life sisters Dakota and Elle Fanning are set to come together in a new film. In a joint Instagram post, Sony Pictures confirmed the news, revealing that the actresses will feature in the film adaptation of Kristin Hannah's book, 'The Nightingale.'

"For the first time ever, sisters Dakota and Elle Fanning are set to star in a film together, in the adaptation of Kristin Hannah's global book phenomenon The Nightingale," the makers wrote in the caption.

Directed by Michael Morris, the film will be released on February 12, 2027. According to People, the film will follow the story of two sisters against the backdrop of World War II and their struggle to survive the occupation of their country by the Germans.

The actresses confirmed they will act together. **—ANI**

BIG DEALS

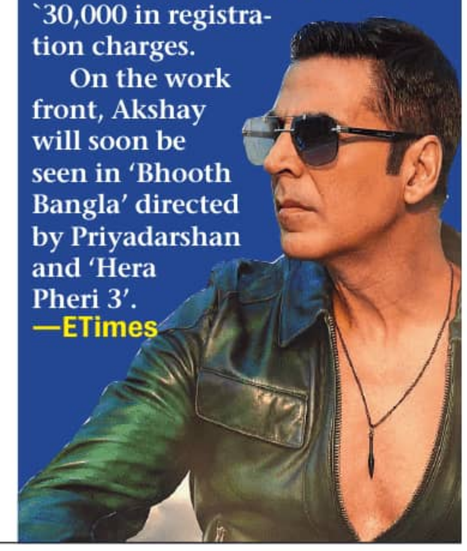
Akshay Kumar is known for his movies but he's also one of the richest actors and has been the highest tax payer as well, several times. The actor also has many ways to invest his money and real estate is one of them. He's recently sold two of his plush apartments in Mumbai's Borivali and made an incredible 91% profit in the process.

According to a report by Square Yards, Akshay sold two adjoining flats located in a ready-to-move-in residential project by Oberoi Realty. The complex spans around 25 acres and offers 3BHKs, BHK+studios, and duplexes. The 'Khiladi' actor had purchased these apartments back in 2017.

One of them was bought for `3.02 crore and has now been sold for `5.75 crore. For this sale, the stamp duty alone cost him `34.50 lakh and registration charges were `30,000.

The second apartment, much smaller at 252 sq. ft. of carpet area, was initially bought for `67.90 lakh. It was sold for `1.35 crore, with a stamp duty of `6.75 lakh and the same `30,000 in registration charges.

On the work front, Akshay will soon be seen in 'Bhooth Bangla' directed by Priyadarshan and 'Hera Pheri 3'. —ETimes



SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

From serials to Tamil film

Prabhakar from Mandya is making his Tamil debut with the movie Accused. Prabhakar plays the villain in the movie that features Udaya, Yogibabu, Ajmal and others.

Prabhakar has acted in many Kannada tele serials including Kapi Cheste, Kunkuma Bhagya, Soundarya Lahari, Mangalya, and Punyakoti. He has also acted in a few Kannada movies. He played the villain in Kariya 2 and played a negative role in the short film Aham Brahmasmi in which the late Sanchari Vijay acted.

"I took a break after acting in tele serials. I have been trying to get good opportunities. I had an opportunity to play the villain in Kariya 2. The movie was directed by Prabhu Srinivas," said Prabhakar. Prabhakar thanked director Prabhu Srinivas for giving him an opportunity to play the villain in Accused. "I could not refuse when director Prabhu Srinivas called me over the phone to come to Chennai. I agreed to act in the movie because of its script," he said.

Accused is scheduled for release on August 1. "Some Tamil movie directors, who watched the movie, appreciated my work. I hope to get opportunities to act in more Tamil and Kannada movies," he said.

Trailer creates ripples

Director Vibin S Santosh has been busy with the preparations for the release of the movie Omen. Its trailer, released recently, got good feedback from viewers. The movie is made in the found footage format.

"Omen means a portent of good or evil. I opted for 'found footage' format for this movie. Many actors do not like found footage format. But our hero, Ajay Kumar, supported me a lot. Music is also an integral part of this movie. I thank producer Mrunalini for providing all amenities during the shooting," said Santosh.

According to the director, the hero is a YouTuber who tries to explore the mysteries surrounding a house. The heroine, played by Neeshma Shetty, played a paranormal researcher determined to uncover the truth. The movie also features Maitri Jaggi, Keerthana Pulki, Raghu Kalavida, and Akash Kulkarni.

The movie is bankrolled by Ajay Kumar and Mrunalini. Ajay Kumar said that he was proud to be part of the team. "I am very happy to play the lead in the movie. I hesitate to claim to be one of the producers of this movie. I learnt a lot from senior actors during the shooting," he said.